

REMARKS

Claims 1-19, 21-22, and 31-37 remain pending in the present application, including independent claims 1, 12-14, and 31. Claims 1-11, 14-19, 22, 31-35 and 37 are allowed.

In the Office Action, claims 12, 13, 21 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,637,416 to Misch et al. in view of the Abstract of JP 0216527 (hereinafter "JP '527"). As now amended, however, it is believed that all of the claims patentably define over Misch et al. in view of JP '527 as described in more detail below.

Independent claims 12 and 13, as currently amended, are generally directed to a surface modified **glove**. The glove is made from an elastomeric matrix having an outside surface. In accordance with the present invention, a plurality of silica particles are adhered to at least a portion of the surface.

Misch et al., on the other hand, is primarily directed to improving the scratch resistance of plastic articles such as plastic lenses (including ophthalmic lenses) and Plexiglass® (Col. 3, ll. 28-32), modifying plastic Petri dishes to allow cultures to grow in a normal fashion (Col. 3, ll. 59-60), and improving the custom method of lithography (Col. 2, ll. 55-57).

Misch et al. does not teach applying its method to gloves as independent claims 12 and 13 now require. As such, it is believed that the claims as currently amended are patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

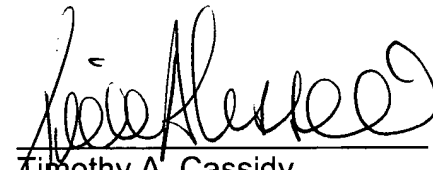
JP '527, on the other hand, is directed to a slip-proof sheet and teaches applying silica and an adhesive agent to both sides or one side of the substrate such as Kraft paper, synthetic paper, cloth, or a film. Similar to Misch et al., however, JP '527 does not (at least in the abstract) disclose or suggest the construction of a glove. Further, JP '527 requires the presence of an adhesive agent that is in direct contrast to claims 12 and 13 that require that the silica particles be affixed to the surface of the glove without any separate binder material. In view of the above, Applicant submits that the claims patentably define over JP '527 either alone or in combination with Misch et al.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims patentably define over all of the prior art of record. It is believed that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Examiner Nolan is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned, however, should any issues remain after consideration of this response.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully requested,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.



Timothy A. Cassidy
Registration No. 38,024

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.
P. O. Box 1449
Greenville, SC 29602-1449
Phone: (864) 271-1592
Facsimile: (864) 233-7342

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